

IRAQI DESTINY

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Fuel begins to flow into Mosul area

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

With local families and businesses without fuel, American forces have begun to transport propane and benzene into the Mosul area.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), are working to escort and distribute fuel into the city.

"We've opened up the line of communication with Turkey to get liquid propane and benzene to ease the fuel shortage," said Lt. Col. Darcy A. Brewer, executive officer, 2-502nd Inf. Rgt.

With the American led efforts to restore fuel to the people of Mosul, according to Brewer, citizens will be able to reestablish power in their homes as well as cook food. "It's also going to mean stability. The people aren't going to be as contentious."

Sixteen trucks carrying more than 320 tons of propane were escorted to various distribution points in and around Mosul Monday morning, according to Brewer.

An additional 20 benzene supply trucks are scheduled to arrive at points around the city.

More than \$24 million in contracts have been awarded to help restore fuel to the Mosul area.

Citizens eager to restore basic fuel needs for their homes lined up single file with a ticket to be stamped by a contracted worker marking that they received the allotted fuel.

Matters became quite hostile when locals dared to cut in line.

"This is organized mayhem," quipped Staff Sgt. James Boersma, of 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "It would be nice if everyone could get propane, the whole country lives off



Pfc. Thomas Day

Propane-thirsty citizens of Mosul wait in line with their fuel tanks as soldiers from the 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), ration out more than 400 tanks of propane early Monday morning.

this stuff," Boersma added.

The fuel shortage had reached desperate levels in recent weeks, with vehicles lined up on roads throughout Mosul for miles, just to fuel their cars.

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) officials have identified the fuel shortage as a preeminent concern as allied

forces continue post-war rebuilding missions.

Brewer, who is overseeing the mission, predicted that the crises should be solved within a month "depending on the production of Iraqi oil products."

"We just have to wait and see," he added.

American forces help bring law and order to Mosul

Iraqi prisoners apprehended after fall of Saddam held in downtown detention center



Photo by Pfc. Thomas Day, 40th PAD

A prison guard, holding an AK-47 rifle, watches over a group of prisoners Saturday. The 503rd Military Police Company in coordination with local officials, escorted prisoners to a temporary facility in Mosul, where they will stay until repairs on the city prison are completed.

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

Prisoners implicated in crimes after the fall of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime are being temporarily held at a downtown Mosul juvenile detention center.

The prison, just to the north-west, was severely damaged by looters after the city was liberated by coalition forces and is undergoing repairs.

"This is a temporary facility we'll use until the Mosul prison is fixed," said 1st Lt. William Smith, public safety team chief, 431st Civil Affairs Brigade of Little Rock, Ark. "These people are still going before a judge," Smith added.

Many of the prisoners incarcerated at the juvenile center are themselves implicated in looting, according to military officials.

Other prisoners have been implicated in crimes ranging from bank robbery to assault.

The reestablishment of law and order comes just months after Saddam Hussein released many Iraqi inmates serving in prisons throughout Iraq in hopes of strengthening resistance to a U.S. led invasion.

All of the prisoners transferred Saturday were apprehended after allied forces gained control of the city of Mosul.

Trials for the inmates, held at the juvenile detention center, should start shortly, according to Smith.

"I'm hoping trials start this week," Smith added.

Roughly 50 inmates were transferred from a downtown Mosul police station to the center in buses, escorted by soldiers from the 503rd Military Police Company, 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

The police station became overcrowded and the juvenile detention center, which comfortably holds more than 200, was the logical choice to hold the prisoners, according to Smith.

The detention center has a dining facility, basketball court, and secure barbed-wire fences.

Before the prisoners were transferred, the 431st, along with soldiers from the 413th Civil Affairs Company of Lubbock, Texas, delivered 73 AK-47 rifles with ammunition to the prison guards ensuring the facility's security.

The guards had previously been armed with only "dummy" ammunition.

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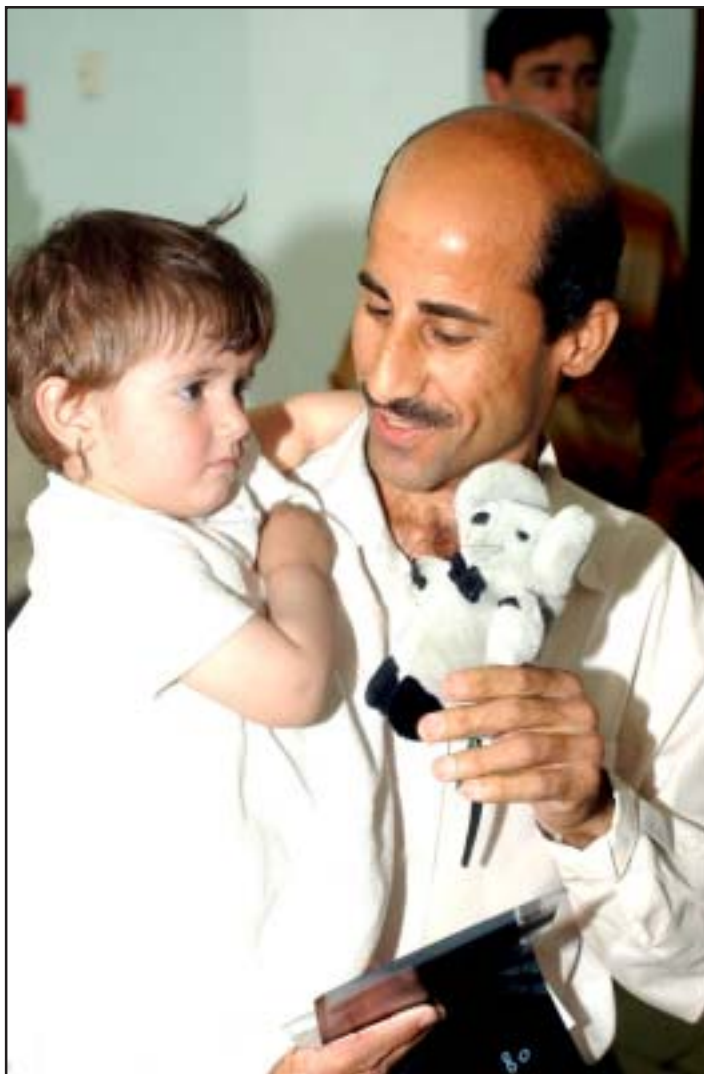
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Spc. Blake Kent

A Iraqi man presents his daughter with a teddy bear brought to the hospital by a U.S. soldier.

Iraqi children's hospital receives bears from U.S.

Spc. Blake Kent
22nd MPAD

Smiles bloomed from the faces of mothers and children when soldiers from the 62nd Medical Brigade and the 21st Combat Support Hospital visited a local children's ward bearing gifts of candy and toys.

The 62nd Medical Brigade is working with the Mosul hospitals to determine their needs in recovering from the war, but the trip to the children's ward was purely not business.

The toys were sent by the mother of Spc. Brendon Dunn of Friendly, Nevada, 21st Combat Support Hospital, who collected donations from around her community.

"She went around to doctors' offices and got them to donate money and then went and got a bunch of stuffed animals and toy cars – just one of those things mom does well," Dunn said.

The trip to visit the children followed a weekly

meeting with Mosul hospital personnel, where the needs of the hospitals are discussed.

Assessments of the hospitals' needs are conducted by Army medical personnel, and are provided to non-governmental organizations, which can provide supplies, said Capt. Kermit Huebner of Batesville, Ohio, medic, 2nd Brigade, 502nd Infantry Regiment.

"They need mainly pediatric drugs and other things that just aren't what the military brings with them on a deployment," Huebner said, "but we can help by letting the non-governmental organizations know."

Military focus has been on providing security, making sure the emergency vehicles have fuel, fixing medical facilities, making sure the medical staff is getting paid and by improving food supplies, said Col. J. M. Harmon III of San Antonio, Texas, commander, 62nd Medical Brigade.

Exceptions to war trophy policy allow for legally purchased trophies

Some U.S. soldiers are being investigated for illegally sending weapons, or war trophies, home from Iraq.

While still under investigation, the recent smuggling case of a soldier allegedly sending gold-plated firearms home from Iraq through the mail is probably an example of commanders and soldiers not understanding the potential value of such trophies, said Military History Detachments that collect artifacts to be sent home for research and history, Cole said. And what they do can't be construed as war trophy collection either, said Cole.

"The question is of title," Cole said of the collection of artifacts from a battlefield.

Commanders in the past have issued

General Orders banning all trophies because they didn't want to administer all of the paperwork involved, Cole said.

"The problem with that is that some people don't recognize legitimate need for the Army as opposed to hanging it in some doorway," Cole said.

From the Army's perspective, sending home weapons, like AK-47s and even tanks, has two purposes: historical and scientific.

The items are used by the Army to document and analyze the immediate aftermath might fight the next one."

By inference, looking at this equipment might show how other countries like Syria, Iran or even North Korea might use it, Cole said.

The current Army policy in place is that a battalion can bring home one weapon, Cole said. Each brigade-level unit is allowed to send home three such weapons, he added.

There isn't a restriction on the number of items like helmets or uniforms that a unit can send, though, Cole added.

A recent example of the Army sending something home comes from Operation Just Cause, the December 1989 invasion of Panama to depose Manuel Noriega's government. After hostilities ended with the dictator's capture, the Army brought home his gun collection, said Cole.

Assuming it wasn't taken during the

"Trophies" continued page 4

Cache of knowledge turns to stash of terror

In a tiny village on the outskirts of Mosul, the former Regime transformed one particular school from a cache of knowledge to a cache of artillery and mortar rounds.

When U.S. soldiers first arrived at the site, they noticed that gunpowder and residue covered the floors at the school.

The children of the village demonstrated for the soldiers how the powder came to be lying all over the ground around the school. The process involved the children breaking apart the ammunition to get out the powder to use for making fire.

U.S. soldiers attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Air

Assault) Artillery are working with local residents to rid the school and village of the large stockpiles of ammunition and weapons that shut down the school's primary purpose.

The unit, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, attached to the 101st Airborne Division, is sorting and removing a variety of war stocks including 60 mm mortar rounds, high explosive artillery rounds, and 50-cal. ammunition.

These soldiers have worked 24 hours straight loading up thousands of rounds and delivering them to ammunition collection points for disposal.

Soldiers from the 377 FA Rgt. located this cache site based on a report from some local Iraqi citizens.

The villagers have been very helpful in assisting the soldiers as best they can.

They have given the soldiers food and drink including bread and chai, which is an Iraqi tea.

The villagers have also helped load all of the ammunition from the school to the trucks.

The locals and soldiers are working together to make the village a safer place.

When the soldiers arrived at the cache site, they saw all of the rooms filled with stacks and stacks of ammunition.

Prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraqi soldiers had filled one room entirely with the desks for the whole school to make way for the ammunition. They used the rest of the rooms in the school as ammunition storage facilities.

Soon the classrooms, will again be filled with desks, globes, books and students eager to learn. The students of Iraq will be in the classrooms learning and aspiring for their future.

*Contributed by
2nd Lt. Amber Munn,
377 FA Regiment*

"Trophies" from page 3

mass looting that ensued after Iraq's liberation, the Army could bring home Saddam Hussein's gun collection but not his coin collection because that's cultural, said Cole.

Cole said the big question of when to send something home is if the country is at war. He pointed out the country's involvement in the Balkans in the 1990s.

The country wasn't at war with Bosnia in December 1995. It was the opposite, a peacekeeping mission, Cole said.

Units or individual soldiers couldn't take anything home unless a local farmer gave a unit or individual soldier a weapon with the proper paperwork to show the gift.

Kosovo, however, was a war and trophies could be taken. Anything taken by units would have been protected under international laws like the Geneva and Hague Conventions.

Currently, there is an officer at Army Central Command headquarters that acts as a facilitator for requests for war trophies. That officer forwards those requests to the Department of the Army.

If the paperwork meets the guidelines, an approval document is sent down from

Department of the Army, said Cole.

He added that the document clears the weapon's passage through customs and it's brought back with the unit's equipment, and it is then noted on the unit's property books.

Once it's on the books, it can't "be passed along to an outgoing CO (commanding officer) simply because he was a nice guy," Cole said.

Individual soldiers sending weapons home is a different matter, Cole said. Before 1968, soldiers could send weapons home without much of a problem, Cole said. That year Congress passed the 1968 Gun Control Act, which, among other things, made it illegal to send weapons through the mail.

It also created a weapons registry and tax a gun owner would have to pay on that weapon, Cole said.

The Department of the Treasury administered the registry and eventually closed it, making it impossible to register and pay the tax, thus making the weapons illegal to own, Cole said.

There are exceptions to the act, said Cole.

Army regulations state there are weapons a soldier can send home legally. A 35th Signal Brigade soldier sending an 1856

Musketo rifle home from Afghanistan last year is a case in point.

Because the weapon was made before 1898, it was an exception to the long list of banned weapons on the 1968 Gun Control Act's list. Not only was it made before 1898, the soldier also filled out the proper paperwork to bring it home.

"The key there is that he bought it," Cole said. "It wasn't something he took from somewhere."

Those gold-plated weapons from Iraq were sent home illegally, Cole said. That soldier will face Uniform Code of Military Justice charges if it is proven that he sent those weapons home.

"A gold-plated weapon or knife wouldn't be worth my career," Cole said. "To say the least, the legality of all this is complicated."

*Contributed by
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